

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	New Hampshire
COUNTY:	Merrimack
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

<b>1. NAME</b>	
COMMON:	Daniel Webster Family Home, "The Elms"
AND/OR HISTORIC:	Daniel Webster Family Home

<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: South Main Street, R.F.D. #2			
CITY OR TOWN: West Franklin		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:	
STATE New Hampshire	CODE	COUNTY: Merrimack	CODE

<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>				
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Convent</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments

<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>			
OWNER'S NAME: Sisters of the Holy Cross			
STREET AND NUMBER: South Main Street, R.F.D. #2			
CITY OR TOWN: West Franklin		STATE: New Hampshire	CODE

<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Merrimack County Courthouse			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: Concord		STATE: New Hampshire	CODE

<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b>			
TITLE OF SURVEY: None			
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE

COUNTY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Webster House, "The Elms," at West Franklin, New Hampshire is a two-and-one-half-story frame and rectangular clapboard building with gable roof. Five bays wide, the shuttered windows contain double-hung sash, twelve lights over twelve, except for a smaller window above the front door which is twelve over eight. The house is entered through a six-panel double door with cornice, pilasters, and a five-panel transom. The rear facade has a similar treatment except that a porch has been added. The west side of two bays contain windows of six-over-six lights, except for a smaller window into the second floor rear room. This window may have been added recently.

The front door enters to a small foyer with open staircase rising to the second floor which could not be observed. There is a central fireplace, but the central chimney seems to have been removed above roof level, and covered by the installation of a new roof. The basic block has two rooms divided by the central fireplace. The west room has been partitioned, providing for a kitchen to the rear. The larger attachment to the east side of the house was probably added some time after the Webster descendents sold the house for use as an orphanage in 1871.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## SIGNIFICANCE

## PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian    ☐ 16th Century    ☐ 18th Century    ☐ 20th Century  
☐ 15th Century    ☐ 17th Century    ☒ 19th Century

## SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal     | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science              | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture            | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian  | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   |   |   |  |

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Ebenezer Webster, Daniel's father, moved into this two-and one-half story frame house, The Elms, in 1800. This home was nearby the tavern in Salisbury which Judge Webster had operated since 1784 and in which the family had lived for the preceeding 15 years. At this time Daniel was away at Dartmouth, but he returned to the Elms often through the rest of his life since his father lived here until he died in 1806. Daniel's brother, Ezekiel inherited it and he lived there until his death in 1829, when Daniel bought it.

The Elms was Webster's experimental farm, vacation retreat, home and gravesite of his parents and his four brothers and sisters--"his solace to the end of his days."<sup>1</sup> He decided to enlarge and develop the family farm into a prosperous stock farm. His visits to The Elms were seldom longer than two weeks, but by 1847, with completion of the railroad lines, he could travel there from Boston in three hours. On these trips he would visit and entertain old friends, review the farm, hunt and fish.

Today The Elms is an orphanage operated by the Sisters of the Holy Cross who have maintained the Webster house intact except for some necessary modernizations.

[For a more complete statement of significance and biography see Inventory-Nomination Form, "Daniel Webster Law Office, Marshfield, Massachusetts."]

1. Claude M. Fuess, Daniel Webster, I (Hamden, Conn.: Archer Books, 1963), p. 29.

# 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cole, Arthur C., "Daniel Webster," Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. 19, (1943), pp. 585-592.  
 Fuess, Claude Moore, Daniel Webster, 2 Vols., (Hamden, Conn.: Archon Books, 1963).

# 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	45°	24'	24"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	71°	39'	24"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

# 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:		Benjamin Levy, Survey Historian	
ORGANIZATION:	Division of Historic and Architectural Surveys, National Park Service	DATE	10-26-73
STREET AND NUMBER:		1100 L Street NW	
CITY OR TOWN:	Washington	STATE	District of Columbia
		CODE	

# 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS